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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/218,783	12/22/1998	PEGGY M. STUMER	98-P-7977-US	2633

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SIEMENS CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
186 WOOD AVENUE SOUTH
ISELIN, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

ADDY, THJUAN KNOWLIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/16/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/218,783

Applicant(s)

STUMER ET AL.

Examiner

Thjuan K. Addy

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 1998 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment filed on April 13, 2007 has been entered. Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14-17, 19-24, and 27 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-27 are still pending in this application, with claims 1, 9, 12, 15, 22, and 27 being independent.
2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04/13/07 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miloslavsky (US 6,229,888), in view of Willie (US 6,430,283), and further in view of Grunsted et al (US 6,192,123).

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4. In regards to claims 1, 9, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 27, Miloslavsky discloses a group pickup system (See Fig. 2, call center 162, and call center 180) and method in a communication network (See Fig. 2) having one or more servers (See Fig. 2, CTI server 170, and CTI server 184), said group pickup system comprising: one or more call group locations associated with different ones of said one or more servers (See col. 1 lines 12-14, col. 2 lines 15-19, and col. 4-5 lines 66-7); and an invite request unit to invoke the group pickup system (See col. 2 lines 38-49 and col. 8 lines 17-31). Miloslavsky discloses a group pickup request unit responsive to said invite request unit to establish a connection to any of a plurality of group pickup destinations (See Fig. 2 and call center 180) to enable a call to a called station to be picked up from any group pickup destination, said destination being selected responsive to one of an alerting listed group member location and a responding listed group member location; and a retrieval request unit to connect a call pickup system station with said call to said called station (See col. 2 lines 38-60 and col. 8 lines 17-40). However, Willie more clearly discloses a group pickup request unit responsive to said invite request unit to establish a connection to any of a plurality of group pickup destinations (See Fig. 1, first private branch exchange PINX1, and second private branch exchange PINX2) to enable a call to a called station (See Fig. 1 and team terminals TT1, TT2, TT3, and TT4) to be picked up from any group pickup destination, said destination being selected responsive to one of an alerting listed group member location and a responding listed group member location; and a retrieval request unit to connect a call pickup system station with said call to said called station (See Abstract and col. 1-2 lines 50-5). Therefore, it would

have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate this feature within the system, as a way of providing a communication system, in which a team function/call can be realized and handled by detached/remotely located team members. Miloslavsky, however, does not disclose each of said one or more servers including call group lists of members for each call group, said each call group having listed members from said one or more call group locations. Grunsted, however, does disclose each of said one or more servers (See Fig. 2 and web server 210) including call group lists (e.g., phone lists and conference call groups) of members for each call group, said each call group having listed members (e.g., persons listed in the conference call group) from said one or more call group locations (See col. 4 lines 20-33 and col. 6 lines 18-43). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ this feature within system, as a way of making easier to make conference calls to the same group. This would improve the systems storage, as well as eliminate the need for a user to dial each telephone number for a group every time that he or she wishes to make a conference call.

5. In regards to claims 2, 10, 13, and 25, Miloslavsky discloses the system and method, further including an exception handler adapted to handle failures (e.g., traffic, busy, no answer) in the group pickup system (See Abstract and col. 4 lines 24-30).

6. In regards to claims 3, 11, 14, and 26, Miloslavsky discloses all of claims 3, 11, and 26 limitations, except the system and method, wherein said one or more servers is a plurality of servers, ones of said plurality being capable of controlling call service functions on others of said plurality of servers, and wherein a call pickup party may be

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located on any server within the network. Grunsted, however, discloses the system and method, wherein said one or more servers is a plurality of servers, ones of said plurality being capable of controlling call service functions on others of said plurality of servers, and wherein a call pickup party may be located on any server within the network (See col. 4 lines 20-33 and col. 6 lines 18-43).

7. In regards to claim 4, Miloslavsky discloses the system, wherein each server micro-controls pickup functions for resident group members and responds to group pickup request and status notification from other ones of said one or more servers (See col. 2 lines 38-49 and col. 8 lines 17-31).

8. In regards to claim 5, Miloslavsky discloses the system, wherein said network failure may include excessive network congestion (See Abstract and col. 4 lines 24-30).

9. In regards to claim 6, Miloslavsky discloses the system, wherein said network failure may include a vacant number (e.g. whether an agent is available or active) (See col. 5 lines 12-19 and col. 5 lines 54-67).

10. In regards to claim 7, Miloslavsky discloses the system, wherein said network failure may include no route to destination (See col. 4 lines 24-30 and col. 5 lines 12-19).

11. In regards to claims 8, 19, and 20, Miloslavsky discloses the system, wherein picking up said call at said destination selects said destination (See col. 4 lines 31-45).

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Pinard (US 6,816,589) teaches dynamic communication groups. Edwards et al (US 6,650,748) teach multiple call handling in a call center. Pinard (US Patent Application, Pub. No: US 2001/0043696 A1).

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan K. Addy whose telephone number is (571) 272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

15. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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16. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thjuan K. Addy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Addy" being more prominent and stylized.

Thjuan K. Addy
Patent Examiner
AU 2614